

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) Method for maintaining normal blood pressure, ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of administering to a subject glycine betaine in an amount sufficient to achieve the desired result.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein a daily dosage of 0.05-20 g of glycine betaine is administered.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein a daily dosage of 0.1-8 g per day of added glycine is administered.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein glycine betaine is in the form of anhydride, monohydrate, or a salt.
5. (Currently Amended) Method for reducing blood pressure, ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of administering to a subject glycine betaine in an amount sufficient to achieve the desired result.
6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein a daily dosage of 0.05-20 g of glycine betaine is administered.
7. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein a daily dosage of 0.1-8 g per day of added glycine is administered.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein glycine betaine is in the form of anhydride, monohydrate, or a salt.
9. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the reduction of diastolic pressure is achieved.
10. (Currently amended) Method for the prevention or treatment of hypertension, ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of administering to a subject in need of such treatment glycine betaine in an amount sufficient to achieve the desired result.
11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein a daily dosage of 0.05-20 g of glycine betaine is administered.
12. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein a daily dosage of 0.1-8 g per day of added glycine is administered.
13. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein glycine betaine is in the form of anhydride, monohydrate, or a salt.
14. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein a daily dosage of 0.05-20 g of glycine betaine is provided.
15. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein a daily dosage of 0.1-8 g per day of added glycine is provided.
16. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the added glycine betaine is in the form of anhydride, monohydrate, or a salt.
17. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the reduction of diastolic pressure is achieved.